

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment responds to the office action dated November 30, 2006.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, due to a lack of antecedent basis in independent claim 9 for the term “said football game.” Claim 9 has been amended to recite the limitation of “a football game.” The applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 9-14 be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 9, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Elenbaas et al., U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0028194 (hereinafter Elenbaas). The Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 13-16, 18-22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Elenbaas.

Elenbaas discloses an automated method of detecting the start and end points of news segments by detecting scene changes to news anchors. More specifically, Elenbaas discloses that a news segment typically begins with a news anchor introducing the story, after which a separate video may or may not be shown. In the method of Elenbaas, if a scene change switches to a view of a news anchor, that scene change may mark the boundary between two adjacent news segments.

Presumably, the Examiner’s rejection is premised on the assumption that some news segments will contain highlights or other video clips of sporting events, showing “plays.” However, the applicant notes that even in that instance, the method of Elenbaas fails to disclose or enable any means of inferring when, in the video clip, a start of each play begins; rather, Elenbaas merely determines when the start and end of each news segment begins, which may contain more than one “play” as defined in the claims. Hence, even if the Examiner is reasoning that the identification of a start of a news segment meets the limitation of identifying the start of a play, this would only hold true for the first play shown in the news segment; the location of the start of subsequent plays in the news segment could never be inferred using the method of Elenbaas.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites the limitations of “each of said plurality of segments depicting an event beginning from a first time when a ball is put into play and ending at the sequentially next one of a second time when said ball is out of play” and “wherein said

computer identifies a start time and an end time of each of said plurality of segments included in said summary, and wherein said start time is identified by inferring the location of the frame in said sequence that most closely temporally corresponds to said first time." This claim distinguishes over Elenbaas in two respects. First, the method of Elenbaas is incapable of inferring the start time of each plurality of segments, as defined in claim 1, within a news clip. For example, if a news clip shows highlights of a football game having five plays cut together, then Elenbaas discloses no method of differentiating the start time of the second play from the start time of the first play. Second, Elenbaas fails to disclose the step of "inferring the location of the frame in said sequence most closely temporally corresponding to" the time when the play begins. Elenbaas is only capable of identifying when an anchor appears to introduce a video clip, which may or may not include a play. Even if the clip does include a play, the location of the frame most closely corresponding to the start of the play is never inferred because Elenbaas merely segments the entire video clip, anchor and all.

Therefore, independent claim 1, as well as its dependent claims 2-4 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art, and the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the respective rejections of these claims.

Independent claims 5, 9, and 15 each include the limitation of "the step of identifying candidate frames for a start of a said event by detecting a predominant color in a said candidate frame, said predominant color being within a range of gamut reduced by a calibration of the color of the field upon which the game being summarized is played." Independent claim 21, as amended, includes the limitation of "wherein the start of said plurality of segments is identified based upon detecting at least one spatial region of a generally green color being within a range of gamut reduced by a calibration of the color of the field upon which the game being summarized is played." Neither limitation is disclosed by the prior art. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that the respective rejections of claims 5, 9, 15, and 21, as well as their dependent claims 6, 7, 10-14, 16, 18-20, and 24 be withdrawn.

Appl. No. 09/933,862
Amdt. dated October 5, 2007
Reply to Office Action of July 9, 2007

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-24.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt" followed by a stylized, flowing surname.

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